

Cromwell

CROMWELL TIMBER & IRON YARD,
LATE MR GRANT'S
NEW ZEALAND & AMERICAN TIMBER YARD.

JAMES TAYLOR,
Carpenter and Builder, Ironmonger,



&c., &c.,

Has FOR SALE all kinds of Building Material suitable for the district.

Estimates given for Buildings at the Lowest PRICES compatible with Good Material and Workmanship.

Punctuality and attention to all orders may be relied on.

• A Large Assortment of Paperhangings Paints, Glass, FURNITURE—comprising Chairs Tables, Washstands, Iron Bedsteads, &c. Building Ironmongery, Carpenters' and Miners' Tools, Hemp, Wire, and Manila Rope, SADDLERY, &c., cheap.



THE CROMWELL BAKERY,

J. SCOTT,
BREAD AND BISCUIT BAKER,
Melmore-street, Cromwell.

• Families waited on for orders, and Bread regularly delivered in all parts of the district

K. PREET SCH,
CROMWELL,
COACH AND GENERAL PAINTER,
PAPERHANGER, &c.,

Has always on hand a fine selection of Paperhangings, Paints, Glass, and Mouldings of every description, at low prices.

Contracts undertaken for General Painting, Paperhanging, Decoration, and Sign Writing.

THOMAS FOOTE,
TAILOR AND CLOTHIER,
MELMORE TERRACE,
C R O M W E L L

Ladies' Riding Habits made to order.

CHARLES COLCLOUGH,
SHAREBROKER, COMMISSION AGENT,
ARBITRATOR, AND ACCOUNTANT,
CROMWELL.

Having arranged to devote my time exclusively to these occupations, business entrusted to my care will receive every attention.

Agent for the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company.

D. MACKELLAR,
ACCOUNTANT and
GENERAL AGENT.

Star of the East Quartz Mining Company, Registered; Colleen Bawn Quartz Mining Company, Registered; Kawarau Bridge Company (Messrs McCormick, Grant, & Richards).

AGENT for The Norwich Union Fire Insurance Company.

Office: Melmore-street, Cromwell.

Mechanical Drawings furnished.—Specifications prepared



T H E C L Y D E S D A L E
ENTIRE HORSE
THANE OF CLYDE,

Will travel this Season in the CROMWELL, CLYDE, and BLACKS Districts.

YOUNG THANE OF CLYDE is by that well-known Sire, Thane of Clyde, imported; dam Kate, imported by W. C. HILL, Esq., Croydon Southland.

YOUNG THANE OF CLYDE is a dark dappled bay, stands 16 hands high, rising 5 years old, has fine symmetry and unequalled action, with a splendid temper.

He travelled last season in the Mataura district, and has proved himself a sure foal-getter.

Terms, £3 10s, payable on the 1st February, 1874; groomage, 5s., to be paid at time of service.

THOMAS GILMOUR,
Proprietor, Clyde.

F. SANSOM, SADDLER
AND HARNESS-MAKER,

Begs to inform the public that he is carrying on business at the Premises lately occupied by Mr Raven, in Cromwell, and trusts, by strict attention and moderate charges, to merit the public patronage.

Collars, Pack-saddles, and Harness of every description made on the premises.

Repairs done on the shortest notice.

NEW SUMMER GOODS.

W. TALBOYS,

Having arranged with a Wholesale House in Dunedin to import goods through them direct from the Home Markets, at a small advance, will now be able to sell at about twenty-five per cent. less than usual prices.

The public can therefore make sure of purchasing the

CHEAPEST FANCY DRESSES IN CROMWELL

CHEAPEST PRINTS IN CROMWELL

CHEAPEST MUSLINS IN CROMWELL

CHEAPEST SKIRTS IN CROMWELL

CHEAPEST CALICOES IN CROMWELL

CHEAPEST FLANNELS IN CROMWELL

CHEAPEST STOCKINGS, GLOVES, COLLARS, MUSLIN SETS, &c. &c.

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

—IN—

TWEED TROUSERS

TROUSERS AND VESTS

TWEED SUITS

SILK MIXED SUITS.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF BOYS' CLOTHING.

CRIMEANS, CRIMEANS—JEAN SHIRTS—FLANNEL SHIRTS.

KNITTED AND COTTON PANTS.

ALL THE NEWEST SHAPES IN MEN'S & BOYS' HATS.

BOOTS, IN GREAT VARIETY.

DON'T FORGET THE GREAT DISCOUNT AT

W. TALBOYS'

L O N D O N H O U S E,

MELMORE TERRACE, CROMWELL

CHEAPEST

DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORE
IN CROMWELL.

J. S O L O M O N,

THE CHEAP DRAPER,

Has opened out permanently in Cromwell with a large and splendid assortment of

NEW AND FASHIONABLE GOODS,

SUITABLE FOR THE SEASON!

Ladies' Bonnets, Trimmed Hats, Silk Jackets, Lace Goods, Shawls, Dress Materials, Costumes, etc., etc.

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing in great variety.

Knickerbocker Suits.

NOT TO BE EQUALLED IN PRICE OR STYLE
IN CROMWELL!

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Straw Hats, New Stock in Fancy Goods.

NO OLD STOCK! ALL PERFECTLY NEW
AND SELECTED FROM THE LATEST
SHIPMENTS!

New Stock in Boots and Shoes, New Stock in Crockery and Glassware.

J. S. can assure his customers and all intending purchasers they have never had such a choice lot of goods to select from in Cromwell.

One trial will convince anyone of the fact.

FRESH STOCK COMING TO HAND REGULARLY.

RECOLLECT—NO HUMBUG!

MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING,

under the management of Mrs Solomon.

DON'T FORGET TO COME EARLY AND SEE THE NEW STOCK!

J. S O L O M O N N.

(Premises lately occupied by Bank of New Zealand.)

DON'T FORGET!

ALL customers purchasing to the amount Five Pounds before BOXING NIGHT
will be presented with a full share gratis in

J. SOLOMON'S GRAND GIFT ART UNION,

consisting of the following valuable prizes:—

LADY'S GOLD WATCH; GENT'S SILVER WATCH; ELECTRO-PLATE TEA AND COFFEE SERVICE; ONE PAIR GOLD EARRINGS; ONE PAIR GREENSTONE EARRINGS; ONE GOLD BROOCH; ONE GOLD CROSS; ONE GENT'S GOLD RING; ONE LADY'S GOLD RING.

THE ABOVE ARE NOW ON VIEW.

Cromwell

Cromwell Veterinary Shoeing Forge,
Next door to Kidd's Cromwell Hotel.

E D W A R D L I N D S A Y,
(Late of Clyde and Melbourne),
GENERAL BLACKSMITH, FARRIER, AND
MACHINIST,

Begs to intimate to his customers and the general public that he has REMOVED to his NEW PREMISES, next to the Cromwell Hotel, Melmore Terrace, where he will carry on every description of Blacksmith work and Farriery as heretofore.

E. LINDSAY begs to intimate to the Public generally that he has gone to the expense of getting a CAST-IRON BED for TIRING WHEELS on a new principle, being the first introduced up-country, which he will guarantee to give general satisfaction; also, that he has made a reduction in the price of Horse-shoeing.

LIGHT SHOES 12s.
DRAUGHT " 17s.

EDWARD LINDSAY,
Veterinary Shoeing Forge.

J O H N W. T H O M P S O N,
FARRIER AND BLACKSMITH.

J. W. THOMPSON desires to announce to the inhabitants of Cromwell and the District that he has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr JAMES SLOAN as Farrier and Blacksmith. His long practical experience in all branches of the business, combined with moderate charges, will, he trusts, secure him a fair share of public patronage.

T H O M P S O N'S
VETERINARY AND SHOEING FORGE,
CROMWELL.

BEFORE purchasing your WATCHES,
CLOCKS, and JEWELLERY, call on

E. MURRELL,

and inspect his CHOICE STOCK of the above articles.

As all his Watches and Clocks are TAKEN TO PIECES, CLEANED, and ADJUSTED before they are delivered, Customers may depend on getting an article that will give satisfaction.

All kinds of WATCHES, CLOCKS, and MUSICAL BOXES cleaned and repaired.

Jewellery made and repaired.—Pipes mounted.

Observe the address:

NEXT MARSH'S BRIDGE HOTEL.



C R O M W E L L B U T C H E R Y
(WHOLESALE AND RETAIL),

OWEN PIERCE - PROPRIETOR.

A supply of Meat of all descriptions always on hand, and sold at the Lowest Prices.



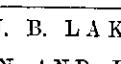
F R E E T R A D E B U T C H E R Y,
(Wholesale and Retail).

JAMES DAWKINS - PROPRIETOR.

A supply of Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Hams, Bacon, &c., always on hand.

* * * Meat delivered at Town Prices throughout the district.

BEEF, BY THE QUARTER, 3½d per lb.



J. B. LAKE,

SURGEON AND PHYSICIAN,

May be consulted at his Residence,

MURRAY-STREET, CROMWELL.

A R R O W F L O U R M I L L S.

To Runholders, Storekeepers, Bakers, and others.

Messrs BUTEL BROS. have much pleasure in announcing that they have appointed D. A. JOLLY & Co., of Cromwell, as their agents for the sale of their SILK-DRESSED FLOUR, BRAN, and POLLARD.

JOLLY & Co. will be prepared to promptly execute orders within a radius of Sixty Miles.

FLOUR GUARANTEED.—TERMS LIBERAL.

W I L L I A M T A Y L O R,
BOOTMAKER,

MELMORE STREET CROMWELL,

Has a large and varied stock of Boots and Shoes on hand, of the best quality.

An inspection of the stock is invited.

Boots and Shoes made to order in the latest and most approved fashion.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

PRICES MODERATE.

J. C H I A P P L E,

AUCTIONEER.

Any orders for Sales in the Cromwell District may be left at the ARGUS Office, and will meet with prompt attention.

Bannockburn & Carrick Range

STUART'S FERRY,

KAWARAU RIVER.



Main crossing-place between Cromwell and the Nevis for Waggon, Drays, Horses, and Foot passengers.

Children attending School, Free.

THE FERRY HOTEL

Has first-class accommodation for Travellers.

BANNOCKBURN HOTEL & STORE,

DOCTOR'S FLAT, BANNOCKBURN,

(On the Main Road to the Nevis).

GROCERIES, CLOTHING, BOOTS, and HOUSE-

HOLD REQUISITES of all descriptions

kept in Stock.

For The Goods, being obtained DIRECT from Dunedin, are retailed at the LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

N.P.—Good Stabling, Horse Feed, &c.

JOHN RICHARDS, PROPRIETOR.

BANNOCKBURN TIMBER YARD
AND CARPENTER'S SHOP.

JAMES TAYLOR,

CROMWELL TIMBER AND IRON YARD,
Begs to inform the Residents of BANNOCKBURN,
NEVIS, POTTERS, &c., that in order to meet the
increasing requirements of these districts, he
has opened a Branch Establishment at Doctor's
Flat, opposite Mr Richards' Store.

A good supply of TIMBER and IRON for
Building and Mining purposes always on hand.

Best Material and Workmanship Cheap for Cash.

WILLIAM SUTHERLAND & CO.,
(Late of Legantown),

GENERAL BLACKSMITHS & FARRIERS,
Beg to intimate to Mining Companies and the
public generally that they have removed to
QUARTZVILLE, next to HAZLETT'S Carrick
Range Hotel, where they hope, by strict attention
to business and reasonable charges, to merit
a share of their patronage.

CARRICK RANGE HOTEL,
QUARTZVILLE.CHARLES PEAKE,
Proprietor.

The Proprietor, having recently purchased the
above well-known and centrally-situated Hotel,
is now in a position to offer first-class accommoda-
tion to all who may favour him with their
patronage.

The Premises are fitted up and furnished on
the most complete scale, and the arrangements
for the comfort of visitors and travellers are
second to none in the district.

COMMODIOUS BILLIARD ROOM,
fitted with one of Julius Paser's full-sized tablesAN EXCELLENT SIX-STALLED STABLE,
with careful groom always in attendance.

183 CHARLES PEAKE.

BANNOCKBURN COAL PIT

ORDERS for this COAL left with

D. A. JOLLY & CO.

will be punctually executed.

JOHN DOVE.

STUART'S
BANNOCKBURN FERRY COALPIT.

J. STUART, having opened out the seam of
Coal previously worked by Messrs NICHOLAS
and Co., has to announce to the public that he
is prepared to supply COAL at reasonable prices
to any part of the district.

The Coal is known to be of first-class quality;
and as the pit is in good working order, cus-
tomers may depend upon a regular supply.

Arrowtown

R. PITCHARD,

Wholesale and Retail Storekeeper,
WINE, SPIRIT, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
ARROWTOWN.

The largest and best-assorted stock of Wines,
Spirits, Groceries, and Provisions in the district.
A well-assorted stock of Boots and Shoes,
Drapery, &c.

Agent for
T. ROBINSON & Co.,
Agricultural Implement Manufacturers,
Dunedin and Melbourne.

Queenstown



THE Right Man in the Right Place.

W. J. BARRY

AT THE

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL,
QUEENSTOWN.

The accommodation at the PRINCE OF WALES
is unsurpassed. New rooms have lately been
erected for private families; and visitors may
depend upon every convenience and comfort,
combined with moderate charges.

HOT DRINKS.

Hot Purl; hot spiced Ale and Porter; Coffee
Royal; hot Coffee and Milk. Steamer always
going.

PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL,
Corner of Beach and Rees Streets,
QUEENSTOWN.

In connection with the above, W. J. BARRY,
Jun., begs to announce that he has taken

THE STABLES

in connection with the Hotel, and assures those
who may favour him with their patronage that
horses will be well and properly cared for.

LIVERY: 6s. per night.

English Grass Paddocks for Horses.

W. J. R., jun., has also to announce that on
and after the 20th September, 1873,

A TWO and FOUR-HORSE COACH
will run between Queenstown and Arrowtown,
twice a week each way.

ROBERT BOYNE,
GENERAL STOREKEEPER
AND NEWS AGENT.

Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu.

A large stock of Groceries and other goods
always on hand. Importer of English and Colonial
Newspapers. Orders punctually attended
to, and newspapers forwarded to any part of the
district.

Agent for the CROMWELL ARGUS.

CARRON TIMBER YARD,
CAMP-STREET QUEENSTOWN,
LAKE WAKATIPU.

B O Y N E

A. B. begs most respectfully to announce to
the inhabitants of Cromwell and surrounding
districts that, having made arrangements for a
constant supply of Southland Building Timber
(red and white pine and totara, thoroughly
seasoned), he is prepared to retail the same at the
following very low scale of prices:

Feather-edged weather-boards, 2s per hundred
feet
Siding—white pine, 2s; red pine, 2s
Shingle-boards—white pine, 2s
Shelving, 2s 6d; dressed, 2s
T & G Lining, 6 x 3, 2s
T G Flooring, 6 x 1, 2s.

A. B. has also for sale a good assortment of
BUILDERS' IRONMONGERY; also, Door Sashes,
American Lining, Shelving, and Turnery.

Oils, Paints, Varnish, &c.

All orders punctually attended to.

Wanaka

WANAKA HOTEL, PEMBROKE.

The above hotel, which is delightfully
situated on the margin of the Wanaka Lake,
offers to the tourist and pleasure-seeker
advantages rarely to be met with.

The scenery in the neighbourhood is ex-
ceedingly picturesque; and on an island in
the lake there is excellent rabbit-shooting.

An excellent four-stalled STABLE, and a
PADDOCK, for horses.

THEODORE RUSSELL,

Proprietor.

Luggage

ALBION HOTEL AND STORE

LUGGAGE,

28 miles from Cromwell, on the main road to
Lake Wanaka.

H. MAIDMAN Proprietor.

This well-known Hotel possesses every accom-
modation for the comfort and convenience of
travellers.

Groceries, Clothing, Drapery, Ironmongery,
Mining Tools, &c., &c., constantly on hand, at
Cromwell prices.

GOOD STABLING.

N.B.—District Post Office.



CROMWELL JOCKEY CLUB RACE MEETING.

Friday and Saturday, 26th and 27th December, 1873.

STEWARDS:

MESSRS J. B. LAKE

I. LOUGHNAN

JAMES COWAN

MESSRS DAVID A. JOLLY

ROBERT KIDD

GEORGE M. STARKEY

HANDICAPPER: Mr JOHN WRIGHTSON.

JUDGE: Mr JAMES TAYLOR.

CLERK OF THE COURSE: Mr OWEN PIERCE.

STARTER: Mr JAMES DAWKINS.

PROGRAMME.

FIRST DAY.

MAIDEN PLATE of 30 sovs. For horses
that have never won an advertised prize of
over 25 sovs. Weight for age. Distance, one
mile and a half. Entrance, £2 2s.GRAND STAND HANDICAP of 60 sovs.
Distance, one mile and a half. Nomination,
£1 1s.; acceptance, £2 2s.MINERS' PURSE of 15 sovs. For all un-
trained horses that have never won an adver-
tised prize of over 15 sovs. Distance, 1/2 mile
heats. Entrance, 20s. No weight less than
10st. Post entry.FLYING HANDICAP of 40 sovs. Dis-
tance, one mile. Nomination, £1 1s.; accep-
tance, £1 1s. Winner of Grand Stand Handi-
cap to carry 7lbs penalty.SELLING STAKES of 25 sovs. Entrance,
20s. Weight for age. The winner to be sold
by auction immediately after the race, and
any surplus to go to the race fund. The win-
ner to be sold for £25: if entered to be sold for
£20, allowed 7lbs; for £15, allowed
14lbs; for £10, allowed 21lbs. Distance, one
mile and a half.Nominations for Grand Stand and Flying Handicaps to be made on 5th December, at 8 p.m.
Weights to be declared in CROMWELL ARGUS of 9th and Otago Daily Times of 10th. Acceptances
to be handed in at or before 8 p.m. on December 24.Nominations for Jockey Club Handicap to be made on December 5. Weights to be declared on
26th, and acceptances to be received up till 10 a.m. on 27th December.
General Entries will be received up till 8 p.m. on 24th December.

SECOND DAY.

CROMWELL DERBY: a sweepstake of £4
4s. h. ft., with £40 added. Second horse to
receive 20 per cent. of the stakes. Entrance,
£2 2s. on nomination, and balance of sweep,
£2 2s., to be made good on night of general
entry. Colts, 8st 10lb; fillies, 8st 5lb. En-
tries closed.JOCKEY CLUB HANDICAP of 100 sovs.,
with a sweepstake of £3 3s. each. Second horse to
receive amount accruing from sweep-
stake. Distance, two miles. Nominations,
£2 2s.; acceptances, £3 3s.HACK SELLING RACE of 15 sovs. Win-
ner to be sold for £15. Surplus to go to the
race fund. For all untrained horses. Dis-
tance, one mile. Entrance, 20s. No weight
under 9st. Post entry.STEWARDS' PURSE of 50 sovs. Entrance,
£3. Weight for age. The winner to be sold
(with his engagements) by auction immediately
after the race, and any surplus to go to the
race fund. The winner to be sold for £50:
if entered to be sold for £40, allowed 7lbs;
for £30, allowed 14lbs; for £20, allowed
21lbs; for £10, allowed 28lbs. Distance, a
mile and a half.CONSOLATION HANDICAP of 25 sovs.
Distance, one mile. Nomination, 15s; accep-
tance, 15s.

Mares and geldings allowed 3lbs.
No entries will be received for any of the
above races except on this condition: That all
disputes, claims, and objections arising out of
the racing shall be decided by the Stewards, or
whom they may appoint. Their decision upon
all points connected with the carrying out of
the programme shall be final.

No person shall be allowed to enter or run a
horse for any race in this programme, post entry
races excepted, unless the latter be qualified as
the bona fide property of a subscriber of not less
than £3 3s. to the race fund.

Entries will be received by the Secretary be-
fore 8 p.m. on the 24th December, entrance
money enclosed, with name, age, and pedigree.

(if any) of the horse, name of owner, and colours
of the rider.

Any jockey riding except in the colours en-
tered will be fined £2.

Five per cent. will be deducted from the gross
amount of all stakes for expenses.

Horses walking over will receive 50 per cent.
of the stakes.

The Dunstan Jockey Club Rules will be
strictly enforced.

Any person entering a protest must deposit
£2, and should such be deemed frivolous by the
Stewards, the amount will be forfeited.

N.B.—No entries or acceptances will be re-
ceived on any pretence whatever after the time
specified.

WILLIAM MACNAB, SECRETARY.

SWAN BREWERY

CROMWELL.

GOODGER AND KUHTZE,

Proprietors.

GOODGER AND KUHTZE are now prepared
to supply their unrivalled XXXX ALES in any
quantity.

Orders left with Mr G. W. GOODGER, Crom-
well, or at the Brewery, will be promptly at-
tended to.

To FARMERS.

GOODGER AND KUHTZE will be purchasers
during the forthcoming season of any quantity
of GOOD MALTING BARLEY.

GOODGER & KUHTZE.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

Messrs HAYES & WILLIAMS
Are now prepared to SUPPLY COALS in any
quantity.

CROMWELL COALPIT.

A U C T I O N S A L E.

EAMES & STANBROOK

Have received positive instructions from Mr EDWARD McNULTY, who is leaving the Province, to sell by public auction on WEDNESDAY, the 24th December 1873, at two o'clock p.m.

That well-known public-house, the ROARING MEG HOTEL, situated on the main road to Queenstown. In connection with the hotel, is a large GARDEN well stocked with Fruit Trees. The hotel contains seven bedrooms, two parlours, dining room, bar, and kitchen. There is also a good FIVE-STALLED STABLE with Feed-house attached.

At the same time also will be sold the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, consisting of double and single iron bedsteads, sofas, chests of drawers, cheffonier, stoves, crockery, and a quantity of kitchen utensils.

FIVE PADDOCKS UNDER CULTIVATION, in all about twenty acres, well and securely fenced, the whole of the crops at the present time presenting a most promising appearance.

Also, at same time and place,

One Waggon and Harness

Four Horses.

The auctioneers beg to draw attention to the above most desirable property, as, from its excellent position and capabilities, a most lucrative trade can be done at all times. To persons desirous of settling down permanently, this valuable opportunity should not be lost sight of.

Remember day of sale:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1873.

EAMES & STANBROOK,

P R O S P E C T U S
OF THE
CARDRONA VALLEY GREAT EXTENDED
GOLD MINING COMPANY.

To be Registered under the Mining Companies Limited Liability Act.

Capital, £5000, in shares of £1 each. Two shillings and sixpence per share to be paid on application, and two shillings and sixpence on allotment, and the remainder in calls of not more than two shillings and sixpence.

PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS:

Mr ROBERT M'DOUGALL, Cardrona
Mr ALFRED AUSTIN, Cardrona
Mr THOMAS A. RUSSELL
Mr GEORGE B. BOND
Mr CHARLES AUSTIN
Mr OWEN MACKIN.

BANKERS:

THE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND,
Cardrona.

This Company is formed for the purpose of following up the auriferous continuation of the Cardrona Deep Lead. A deed is now in course of preparation by the Government (see Warden's letter) in favour of Messrs Mackin and Bond, conveying to them a special grant of one mile of the Cardrona Creek at Spott's Creek, about six miles south of Albertown, and about ten miles north of the present Cardrona township.

It is scarcely necessary to mention that it is the largest mining grant on record, and the auriferous nature of the Cardrona Creek is too well known for even the most sceptical to have a doubt of the favourable results of the company.

It is well known that rich deposits were found in tributary gullies falling into the main Cardrona Creek, where Messrs Mackin and Bond's grant is, and it is equally well known that gold was discovered at the head of their grant, and could be worked to advantage but for the want of capital by the prospectors.

It is also worthy of remark that gold can be found on both sides of the range along the course of the Cardrona Valley to Albertown.

Again, reverting to the auriferous nature of the Cardrona Creek, the Escort returns will dispel any doubt that may arise on the present and future prospects of the Cardrona gold-field.

The Provisional Directors are of the opinion that not more than seven shillings and sixpence per share will be required, as they are impressed with the belief that the ground is not more than 15 feet deep. And by cutting the valley flat across, along with the aid of a tail race, so as to effectually drain the ground, they are confident of a successful issue.

Messrs Mackin and Bond were at considerable expense for survey and other outlay in inducing the Government to grant their application. Therefore, they claim jointly 600 paid-up shares for surrendering their rights to us for the purpose of forming a Company.

Immediately one half of the shares are subscribed for, a meeting of the shareholders will be called to elect directors.

Applications for information and shares can be made to

Mr ROBERT M'DOUGALL,
Arrowtown, and

Mr OWEN MACKIN,
Cardrona.

Agent for Cromwell: C. COLCLOUGH.

WANTED, a General SERVANT.
Apply to Mrs SOLOMON.

F O R S A L E
The ALL NATIONS HOTEL,
Carrikton.
Apply Argus Office, Cromwell.

F O R S A L E
One THIRD SHARE in RACE and CLAIM
at KAWARAU GORGE.—Apply to
D. MACKELLAR.

F O R S A L E
at Kawarau Gorge, a
TWO-ROOMED COTTAGE, iron, 18 x
12.—Apply to
DAVID MURLEY.

L U C K N O W Q U A R T Z M I N E.
Wanted immediately, FOUR experienced
MINERS for tunnel work.
Apply on the ground, or to
C. COLCLOUGH,
Cromwell.

A C O N C E R T A N D B A L L
with FREE SUPPER,
will be given at
H A L L I D A Y ' S H O T E L,
Bannockburn, on
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Admission, 2s 6d.

Proceeds to be spent by the Committee for a
SCHOOL FEAST.

C O R P O R A T I O N O F C R O M W E L L.

TENDERS will be received till THURSDAY,
18th December, at 8 p.m., by the Town Clerk,
for the following work:—

Contract No. 7.—Cutting and Forming Melmore Terrace to the permanent level, between Sligo-street and Achil-street.

Plans and Specifications at Town Clerk's office
after Thursday, 11th inst. The lowest or any
tender not necessarily accepted.

CHARLES COLCLOUGH,
Town Clerk.

C O R P O R A T I O N O F C R O M W E L L.

P U B L I C A N S ' L I C E N S E S.

The Holders of Licenses are reminded that
the fees are payable to the Corporation, and that
the present Licenses expire on 31st instant.

CHAS. COLCLOUGH,
Town Clerk.

C H U R C H O F E N G L A N D.

S E R V I C E S will be held as follows:

December 21.—Gorge; Bannockburn; Cromwell.

J. JONES.

New Advertisements.

O T A G O W A S T E L A N D S A C T,
1872.

S E C T I O N 65, S U B - S E C T I O N 1.

District of Dunstan.

Cromwell, Dec. 12, 1873.

To the District Land Officer at Clyde.

We hereby give notice that we intend to construct a water-race (with dam at its termination if required), for coal-mining purposes, commencing at a point on the Far-running Creek, about half a mile above its junction with the Lindis, and terminating at or near the Lindis River on our coal-lease.

The length of such race is one mile or thereabouts, and its intended course is east and west.

The mean depth and breadth of such race is two feet by one, and it is capable of carrying four sluice-heads of water.

(Signed) ALEXANDER M'LEAN,
For self and
ALEXANDER TOLMIE,
and
GEORGE M'LACHLAN.

Any person objecting to the issue of a license to the above-named applicants, must lodge his objection in writing at my office within fourteen clear days from the date hereof.

W. LAWRENCE SIMPSON,
District Officer.

The day fixed for deciding applications, if unopposed, is 8th January 1874.

C O R P O R A T I O N O F C R O M W E L L.

Tenders are required for Laying 220 yards Water Piping (galvanised iron), near Hedlund's house: to be in before 8 p.m. on THURSDAY first.

CHAS. COLCLOUGH,
Town Clerk.

T O B U I L D E R S.

TENDERS are wanted for the erection of STABLES (STONE) in Cromwell, for Messrs L. HALLENSTEIN and Co.

Plans and Specifications may be seen at the store of the above firm, where tenders are to be lodged on or before MONDAY, December 22, at 12 noon.

F. W. BURWELL,
Architect.

N O T I C E.

TENDERS are invited up till MONDAY, 29th December, for Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of a BRIDLE-TRACK from the Cardrona Township to M'Nulty's Hotel, via the Kirtleburn.

Tenders are to be addressed to Mr ALFRED AUSTIN, Chairman of the Cardrona Progress Committee, marked "Tenders for Sections 1, 2, 3, or 4," as the case may be, and accompanied with a deposit of 2½ per cent. on the amount of tender. On the acceptance of any tender, a further deposit of 2½ per cent. must be made for the due fulfilment of the contract.

A tracing of the track and specifications can be seen, and full information obtained, at the Post Office, Cardrona.

The route of the track is marked with flags and stone cairns.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Cardrona, 6th December 1873.

N O T I C E.

A PPLICATION having been made by A JOHN TOWAN and others for a special claim in the Kawarau Gorge, of four acres more or less, notification is hereby made that anyone desirous of objecting to same must do so in writing on or before the 9th January 1874, the day fixed for the hearing.

W. LAWRENCE SIMPSON,
Dec. 12, 1873. Warden.

N O T I C E.—From and after the 1st October, the Warden and Resident Magistrate for Dunstan District will hold Court as follows at the different places under his charge, during 1873:—

At CLYDE every THURSDAY.

At CROMWELL every FRIDAY.

At BLACKS, on TUESDAY, the 23rd December.

At TEVIOT, on TUESDAY, the 16th December.

W. LAWRENCE SIMPSON,
Warden and R.M.

A L B E R T H O T E L,
STORE, & POST-OFFICE,

A L B E R T O W N.

H. NORMAN

Begs to intimate that he has made very extensive improvements in the above old establishment, and can now offer unrivalled accommodation, both for man and horse.

A large stock of GENERAL STORES & DRAPERY always on hand.

Old acquaintances will please remember that they can still make themselves perfectly at home at

H. N O R M A N ' S,
ALBERTOWN.

S P O R T S ! S P O R T S ! ! S P O R T S ! ! !

NEW YEAR'S SPORTS
AT LOWBURN.

The usual Sports will take place at the Lowburn on New Year's Day.

E V E R Y B O D Y I N V I T E D !
E V E R Y B O D Y W E L C O M E !

H O R S E R A C I N G,
FOOT RACING,

P I G E O N S H O O T I N G,

&c. &c. &c.

The Members of the Brass Band have kindly promised their services.—Further particulars in next issue.

JOHN PERRIAM.

M I L L S, D I C K, & C O ' S

ALMANAC FOR 1874,

JUST PUBLISHED,

Has been considerably enlarged and improved, and will be found to contain a greater variety of useful information than any other almanac published in New Zealand.

Price, 2s 6d. Sold by all Storekeepers and News-agents.

MILLS, DICK, & CO.,

Printers and Publishers.

D I V I N E S E R V I C E.

The Rev. B. DRAKE will hold services as follows:—

December 21.—Ardgour, 11 a.m.; Cromwell, 8 p.m.

December 28.—Bannockburn, 4 p.m.; Cromwell, 8 p.m.

A.O.F.

COURT ROYAL OAK OF KAWA
RAU, No. 4929.

SUMMONED MEETING on SATURDAY, the 20th December. Business: Nomination of Officers.

CHARLES KOCH,

Secretary.

WANTED, a first-class COOK. Highest wages given. Apply immediately, STARKEY'S Kawarau Hotel.

N O T I C E.

A L L A C C O U N T S due to the late firm of MATTHEWS & FENWICK must be settled before 1st JANUARY 1874, otherwise legal proceedings will be taken for their recovery.

J. A. MATTHEWS.

Cromwell Argus,
AND NORTHERN GOLD-FIELDS GAZETTE.

CROMWELL: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1873.

On Saturday evening last, the Secretary for the Gold-fields, while speaking on the commonage subject, twitted us with having, in the leader of last week, quoted the Waste Lands Act of 1872 as Scripture is sometimes quoted,—that is, we suppose, as a certain individual, nameless here, is said to have quoted it, in a distorted manner, and one to suit our own preconceived opinions. We were further informed that the Government were too anxious to facilitate settlement in any district to neglect any lawful means of obtaining land for the purpose, and that, in confining their efforts to negotiations with the pastoral tenants, (we must not call them squatters any more,) they were only following the advice given by several lawyers of the highest repute. We also heard with somewhat amazed feelings, that none of the runholders object to bona fide miners feeding a horse and two or three head of cattle, without the necessity of the Government interference at all. And, in conclusion, we were told sufficient to make us infer, that beyond the 7000 acres once offered by Messrs Longman,—and it is very doubtful whether the offer still holds good,—there is not the slightest chance of a commonage being at present granted to us. These were the principal points in Mr BASTINGS' short speech on the commonage question, and to these we shall as much as possible confine our remarks.

In the first place, we have simply to assert that the quotations made by us from the Act are literally correct, and that, to the very best of our knowledge, no clause or portion of a clause can be found in the Act which goes even to modify, let alone destroy, the meaning attached by us to the clauses as quoted. Clauses 73 and 76, which are the most important for us, refer entirely to land upon gold-fields, and to land nowhere else. If Mr BASTINGS really thought and knew that we had misquoted the Act, it would have been the simplest thing in the world to have proved that such was the case, by a plain reference to the Act itself; and almost any person in Cromwell would have found a copy for him.

Then, with reference to the opinions of the lawyers in the matter. We do not doubt Mr BASTINGS' word, that they advised the Government to settle the matter with the runholders by means of negotiations, or friendly bargains; and we approve of the advice given. It is always desirable to settle these matters by friendly means, if a friendly way is open. But if not, if the runholder says he does not wish to part with his land, and will not

that two solicitors whom he had consulted had "grave doubts" only as to whether the Government had power to take the land compulsorily. On this occasion, we find that Mr. BASTINGS' lawyers have "progressed" into a decided opinion that the Government has no power. The law is the same now as it was twelve months ago, and the very fact that it has taken the lawyers all that time to make up their minds is a sufficient proof to us that their opinions are not altogether to be taken on trust. We know what their dictum is—now we want their reasons. We have already stated our opinion,—and, we venture to say, the opinion of ninety-nine men out of a hundred,—and till the reasons for departing from it are published, we shall content ourselves with simply re-affirming our belief in it, namely, that the Government have no real difficulty in proclaiming a commonage if they have the will to do so.

We said we were amazed to hear that runholders had no objection to allow *bonda-fide* miners to run a horse and two or three head of cattle upon their stations. The news is too good to be true. It is one of those pleasant fictions indulged in by runholders to quieten the scruples of a too-confiding Government when the hardships of impounding raids are brought forcibly under their notice. It is like the privileges which a miner, by virtue of his miner's right, is supposed to possess—a delusion and a snare. We should be amazed at our own folly if we condescended to further speak upon this point in the meantime. Miners have often been described as easily led, but we hardly think they will be misled by such an undisguised sop as this.

And now, as to the 7000 acres offered by the Messrs LOUGHNAN, on certain conditions. As Mr. BASTINGS well knows, a block of this extent, and of the quality, would be totally inadequate to meet the wants of this district. The very mention of the 7000 acres makes us think that the matter has not received that amount of attention at the hands of the Government to which it was entitled. To all practical intents and purposes we have got the 7000 acres already.

In the course of some remarks upon the same subject, Mr. TURNBULL said he would be very glad indeed if the *Argus* would point out the method which should be adopted to obtain the cancellation of a runholder's lease. Very well; we shall do so, and briefly. Let Mr. TURNBULL's Executive recommend the Governor to cancel the lease or leases over as much of the neighbouring run or runs as the sum of £2000 will pay compensation for. We reckon it will pay for twelve thousand acres. The Governor having done this, let the Superintendent reserve the twelve thousand acres for commonage purposes till the Provincial Council meet. We confidently reckon upon the reserve being then made permanently.

MR TURNBULL, in promising to furnish for publication the opinion of the lawyers on the commonage question, said if it was desired, the opinion of the Attorney-General, the highest law authority in the Colony, could be obtained. The intention of the Act is plain enough, and if its legal meaning is different from its intention, have we not to blame greatly the very same Attorney-General. What confidence can we have, therefore, in his exposition of the law now? Ought he not to have corrected the errors in it, if there are errors, before it passed into law. Hear what the *Guardian* says on a similar subject:—

"It is certainly strange that, while we have, unlike our neighbours in Australia, a non-political Attorney-General, we have perhaps the worst-drafted body of Acts in the empire. Hardly an Act one can open but it is disfigured by some silly hiatus or contradiction. Curious, we say, but at the same time very unsatisfactory. We have often said already, and it will do no harm to repeat, we are quite hopeless of seeing any change in this serious matter until a special body of draftsmen be provided to take charge of these things. We repeat that when we have long ago admitted, under the pressure of experience, that a popular assembly is unfit for the direct business of administration, we have no right to assume that it is more fit for the direct work of legislation. On the contrary, it is most certainly less adapted to the latter work than to the former. Until this is practically acknowledged and acted on by appointing experts to this work of drafting, the evil will go on accumulating, and the proper name for our Statute-book will be—mess."

In consequence of pressure upon our space, we are compelled to omit this week our usual Mining Memoranda. The only item of importance is the crushing of the Cromwell Co., finished yesterday. From a crushing of about 80 tons, the gold obtained is 445 ounces.

Mr. Talboys informs us that he has received a telegram from Mr. Fraser, stating that £20 was collected on Sunday last at the Episcopalian Church service, in Lawrence, in aid of the building fund of the Episcopalian Church at

The Rev. Jackson Smith, of Queenstown, is at present on a visit to Martin's Bay.

At Napier, Ellen Page, a Maori girl, aged 15, has been committed for trial for forging a cheque.

Mr. James Scott has just completed one of the finest and most complete ovens which we believe can be found out of Dunedin. If we don't get good bread at any future time, the oven must not be blamed.

The Athenaeum Committee held a meeting last week. The only business of importance brought before the meeting was the offer by Mr. B. R. Baird to advance the sum of £450 by way of loan to build an Athenaeum Hall. The offer was favourably received by the Committee.

We are informed that Mrs. Stoy (lately residing in the Bannockburn district) was taken into custody last week at Invercargill, on a charge of having committed bigamy. She will be remanded to Cromwell. The case has been brought against her at the instance of her first husband.

From a private telegram received here yesterday, from Dunedin, we learn that the submarine boat (Nuttall's patent) was most successfully launched yesterday forenoon in the presence of his Honor the Superintendent and more than one thousand spectators. Many will be glad to hear that the Molyneux is to have another trial in the dredging way.

At the last meeting of the Cromwell Miners' Association, the Secretary, Mr. Colclough, informed the meeting that an agreement had been entered into between the banks on the subject of the reduction in the price of gold. The agreement, Mr. Colclough said, on the best authority, involved a penalty on the bank which first broke through its condition of a thousand pounds.

We are informed by a gentleman in this town, who is well acquainted with the district, that the prospects of the Nevis never looked better than they do at present. He instances one claim which is worked by four men. They can take out a "padlock" every five days, and the yield from each padlock averages quite thirty ounces. This is pretty good work for four men: about £30 per week per man.

We cannot help being struck with the fact that nearly all our exchanges refer to the reduction in the price of gold as having taken place in the Cromwell district only. We certainly were under the impression that the reduction was a universal one, or almost universal, throughout the Province. If the reduction affects our own district only, we should be glad to know, as the evil could then be very easily dealt with.

At the complimentary dinner given to Messrs. Turnbull and Bastings, the other evening, Mr. Grant, when claiming the right to say a few words in reply to the toast of the Mayor and Corporation, described himself as one of the "bulwarks of the Council." The description, it is hardly necessary to say, was intended for a joke; and when given with Mr. Grant's pretended simplicity, had the desired effect of setting the whole company in a roar.

From the report of the examination of the Oamaru Grammar School, held on the 4th and 5th insts., we see that Master Joseph Wright (one of the late pupils in the Cromwell District School) distinguished himself considerably. The fact is all the more creditable when we reflect that he had to contend in Oamaru against a school mustering nearly 300 on the roll, whereas in Cromwell he had only numbers varying between 30 and 60. The results are:—Dictation, 5th class, 1st prize; Arithmetic, 7th class, 1st prize; Mental Arithmetic, 1st prize (another boy being equal); Euclid, 2nd class, 1st prize; Algebra, 3rd class, 1st prize; Latin, 1st class, 1st prize; French, 1st class, 1st prize; Drawing, 2nd prize;—that is, seven first prizes and one second. The prizes for dictation, mental arithmetic, and algebra represent the first prizes of the school for these subjects.

We would draw the attention of those interested in quartz mining or crushing companies on the Carrick Range to the offer of the Gold-fields Secretary, to subsidise local subscriptions to a road fund by £2 for every £1 subscribed. The Elizabeth, the Star-and-Oak, and the Caledonian should subscribe liberally to such a fund, and get the road put into thoroughly good working order, at least as far as Carrickton, before winter again sets in. With a little assistance, there is no reason why the Young Australian, the Leader, and the John Bull companies should not avail themselves of the subsidy. A passably good road might, without any great expense, be thus made to the Royal Standard Saddle, and from thence to Mr. Logan's machine, as well as from Carrickton to the Elizabeth claim and the Star-and-Oak machine. The companies and the shareholders, however, should combine their contributions, and not selfishly demand a good road to each of their particular claims and machines. What is good for the district as a whole would prove of the utmost benefit to each particular claim and company.

A gentleman who was present at the public meeting held at the Bannockburn schoolhouse on Saturday night, to consider the steps to be taken in re the reduction in the price of gold, informs us that one of the local bank agents was present, and gave some information as to the causes which had led to the late reduction. He also gave information as to the way in which gold could be sent for assay, and the charges which would be made on the gold sent for that purpose. We regret very much that our reporter was not present, as the information appears to have been of that exact kind which was hinted at in a late leader of ours as being wanted from the banks. It was impossible for our reporter (we can't afford more than one special) to attend the Conference with Messrs. Turnbull and Bastings, and the Bannockburn meeting at the same time. Our local correspondent at the Bannockburn of course only gives briefly (and properly too) the result of the meeting; it would hardly be fair to expect a detailed report from him. By the way, it was understood, at their last meeting, that a deputation of the Cromwell Miners' Association was to wait upon the local agents to get their information. Have they yet done so?

Mr. Talboys informs us that he has received a telegram from Mr. Fraser, stating that £20 was collected on Sunday last at the Episcopalian Church service, in Lawrence, in aid of the building fund of the Episcopalian Church at

A telegraph wire is to be laid on to the Melbourne cricket ground during the English cricket match, and telegrams will be forwarded direct to London.

It is said that Miss Julia Mathews' success in Great Britain has been of such magnitude that she has been compelled to decline several brilliant offers made to her to revisit Australia.

The German Consul in Melbourne has prevented mining speculators placing mining ventures on the German market, on the grounds that he thinks it unadvisable to invest German capital in Victorian mines.

The Rev. Mr. Rigg preached in Trinity Wesleyan Church on Sunday last. In the course of his sermon he made reference to festivities at church anniversaries, and spoke warmly against playing at kiss-in-the-ring at any time, and especially on such occasions. It had, he said, an evil influence upon those who took part in it, and was a blot upon our Christianity.—*Tuapeka Times*.

According to the Lawrence paper "the dead body which was found at the Beaumont has been identified as that of Captain M'Intyre, a shareholder in the Galatea dredge at Alexandra. He was, it seems, drowned in company with a man named Scott (on whom an inquest was lately held at the Teviot), owing to the accidental upsetting of a boat. The wife of the late Captain M'Intyre identified his apparel as well as tattoo marks."

With respect to the reduction of 1s. per ounce in the price of gold at Cromwell, a gentleman showed us this week both refiner's and assayer's receipt notes for a parcel of Otago gold sold by him to the Bank of England, and for which £4 5s. an ounce was given. We remember seeing a statement the other day that £4 per ounce was given at Orepuki for gold which is almost as fine as flour, and therefore proportionately impure. It certainly seems strange that such a difference in price exists.—*Arrow Observer*.

The Southern Escort arrived in town on Tuesday, 9th inst., with the following quantities of gold:—

	oz. dwt.
Lawrence	1675 9
Waipori	217 3
Waitahuna	389 11
Tokomairiro	468 8
	2750 11
Northern Escort	9347 6
Total	12,097 17

The election of a surgeon to the Dunstan District Hospital is occupying the attention of a good many people at present. As the time is drawing near when the election will take place, we may as well remind the public that only those who are subscribers to the extent of one pound per annum are entitled to vote upon the occasion. If, therefore, any one feels any interest in the election, he should see that he is qualified to vote. We believe that any one who pays during the present month (that is, if he has not done so during the year gone by) will be eligible, although we cannot say when the time for qualifying one's self expires. While reminding the subscribers of their duty, we may as well remind the Committee that they will not be doing theirs, if they insist upon the election being carried on entirely at Clyde, as was done upon former occasions. Polling-places should be established at the chief centres of population,—unless, indeed, it is true, as some say, that the law will not allow of such being done. We trust the matter will have the attention of the Committee, and, if at all possible, that polling-places will be established at other places than Clyde. There are at present, we suppose, about eighty qualified voters in this district alone, of whom some thirty or forty reside in the immediate vicinity of Cromwell, and it would certainly be a hardship to insist upon their going to Clyde to record their votes. The same thing applies with equal force to Alexandra, Black's, and other places.

At the meeting of the Waste Lands Board held in Dunedin last week, the following matters of business were transacted:— "Recommendation of the District Land Officer that William Scott should be allowed valuation for improvements made by him on sections 11 and 12, block LIX., Cromwell. The Chief Commissioner explained that the application was about some land which had been sold, but not taken up properly. Improvements had been made upon it, and the result was that the man now found himself in a fix.—Mr. Clark thought the case was hard, and that the Board might do as it formerly had done in such cases, and grant the request.—The Chief Commissioner did not think the Board had any power in the matter. If the applicant held a business license, it would be all right. The Board resolved that it had no power in the matter.—The question whether sawmill licenses should or should not be issued for 1874, pending the preparation of new timber licenses, was next brought under the consideration of the Board.—Mr. Strode: It is a serious matter if these licenses are granted, because by doing so we would be fixed up for another year. Really these sawmills are doing a power of injury; they are most destructive.—The Chief Commissioner thought some arrangement might be made for sawyers and wool-cutters independent of sawmills. Why not charge so much per man instead of so much per horse-power? It is an immense privilege to allow men to come in and cut bush down in such a manner as is done by the sawmills.—Mr. Butterworth: Could we not give a license for a month or a quarter?—Mr. Strode: Yes. Give them for a shorter term—three months; by that time the question will be settled, and new regulations issued. In a very extensive bush like Toi Toi, he would not object so much, but in limited bushes he thought the sawmills ought to be put down.—The Chief Commissioner: It will injure the public very much; my opinion is to go on for another year.—Mr. Strode: I am inclined to stop. Let the Provincial Council have the onus of doing it. We are sitting here for the benefit of the public, not for ourselves.—After a few further remarks, the Board postponed the consideration of the matter, on the understanding that no licenses should be issued until this question was decided."

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There were seven suicides in Melbourne on December 3.

Caledonian Sports and a Regatta are to be held in Queenstown on the 26th and 27th insts. respectively.

At the Princess Theatre, Dunedin, the other evening, says the *Daily Times*, the Bernard Brothers were performing their wonderful feats on the trapeze when Samuel, in turning a somersault from the bar to be caught by Frank, miscalculated his distance, and fell on the back of one of the stall seats. As may be imagined, great confusion followed. Frank came quickly down and assisted to carry his brother on to the stage. The latter, in answer to a question from the audience, replied that he was not much hurt. Dr. Burrows and Dr. Sorley were in attendance almost immediately after the accident occurred, and found that the injuries sustained were a contusion of the left eye and the right wrist slightly sprained. Beyond the shock, he received no other internal injuries. Mr. Hydes informed the audience that it was through no fault of the management that the accident had occurred. The Brothers had frequently been advised to use the net provided for them, but they persistently replied that it was "all right." In future, he would not allow any more of these dangerous performances; the shock the audience had received that night should not be repeated.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

DUNEDIN.

TUESDAY, 9 a.m.

The Governor has arrived in Oamaru, and will be the guest of John M'Lean, Esq., during his stay.

On Saturday afternoon, the first excursion on the Dunedin and Clutha line took place, as far as the present terminus at Green Island. At luncheon, the Hon. Julius Vogel spoke at length in reply to the toast of the General Government.

Mr. Grogan, who met with an accident at the races, could speak on Sunday, and is now progressing favourably.

The High School session closed on Saturday. The prizes were distributed by the Premier.

A fire broke out on the premises of Nichols, bootmaker, George-street, last night at 11, and extended to Spicer's factory adjoining. Two shops were gutted. Estimated damage, £900, principally covered by insurance.

A banquet to Vogel is on the *tapis*.

A Native disturbance has occurred between Otaki and Manawatu (West Coast) over a block of land. Firearms were used, and five or six Natives killed. Government is using every endeavour to settle the difficulty, and preserve peace.

A crushing from Break-o'-Day claim at the Lyell has yielded 1164 ozs. of retorted gold from 152 tons of stone.

BANNOCKBURN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

December 15, 1873.

A public meeting was held in the schoolhouse here on Saturday evening for the purpose of taking into consideration the reduction in the price of gold, and of entertaining suggestions as to the most practicable mode of effecting a counter-combination. Mr. J. Crombie was voted to the chair, and Mr. J. Berry was appointed secretary for the purposes of the meeting. A lengthy discussion of a very discursive nature took place, after which the following resolutions were put to the meeting, and unanimously carried:—

Proposed by Mr. Behrens, seconded by Mr. Hazlett: "That this district cannot afford to lose one shilling per ounce on the gold, and the miners would urge upon the General Government the necessity of having an assay office in Dunedin, for the purpose of securing the standard value of the gold. That a respectful petition to this end be drawn up, and sent round for signature, and placed in the hands of the Gold-fields Secretary for transmission to the General Government."

Proposed by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Smidley: "That the miners in this district sell their gold to the Bank of New Zealand."

Proposed by Mr. Hazlett, seconded by Mr. Humphrey: "That the minutes of this meeting be handed over to the Committee of the Miners' Association, with a request that they be forwarded to the Otago Miners' Executive at an early date."

Progression is the order of the day with us of the Bannockburn. A handsome building is being erected for a schoolmaster's residence, which will add somewhat to the dignity of the district. I see the annual statutory meetings take place at an early date, and I sincerely trust we shall give no such occasion for the accusation of carelessness in the matter as some of our gold-fields townships have given.

The inhabitants of the Cromwell district are sometimes puzzled to know which is the best and cheapest establishment to purchase their supplies of drapery and clothing at. They should no longer remain in doubt on that score. If they will only pay one visit to W. TALBOYS' London House, they will discover for themselves that it is not only the cheapest but the best store at which to deal for these articles. Mr. Talboys has made arrangements to import his stock direct from the Home markets, and the public can rest assured that everything will be sold by him at an advance only sufficient to repay the original cost, and return a fair percentage on the outlay. Every article in Mr. Talboys' establishment is marked in plain figures, from which no abatement is ever made. A fuller description of the stock will be found in a *Advertiser* in another column.—[ADVR.]

DUNSTAN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

December 15, 1873.

Wednesday last was a sort of gala day in our township. The fire opened with the installation of the officers of the Masonic body, which no doubt was a grand affair, as all our town craftsmen, and several others from neighbouring places, were dressed up in their holiday rig; but not being in the secret, I can say little more about it. Next came the trotting match between Glassford's Dick and Stewart's Stumpy, which was won by Dick as pleased. Then a handicap pigeon match followed, Mr Eames being the winner. Several other races and matches followed, none of which call for particular notice.

In the evening, came the grand Masonic festival and ball; and all the talk of the ladies has since been about dresses, their trimmings, and their costs; how such a dress would have looked so much better differently trimmed, and so forth. But I suppose I must not interfere with the ladies; of course they have a right to enjoy the luxury of criticism without comment. The whole affair is said, however, to have been a great success. Mr V. Pyke, P.G.M., I should have stated, officiated at the installation ceremony. He has also been bringing under our notice the probability of the early appearance of a new weekly paper, in the shape of the *Southern Mercury*.

Messrs Bastings and Turnbull, members of the Provincial Executive, passed through the town at the end of last week on their way upwards. On Saturday, Messrs Hazlett, Simpson, and Mackay went to Black's to select a block of land for settlement.

The matter of the election of a surgeon for the Hospital, I will notice when I write again. Meantime, I cannot say things are going so smoothly as might be desirable.

The pneumatic dredge has been taken out into the river and tried with the new paddle-wheels, which answer well. There is some talk of getting up a company to work it, but of this more anon.

I wonder where our honourable M.H.R. is stowed away? I almost think we could do with his services here for a little, if he would undertake to draw out a Public Works Committee Indemnity Bill, and see if he could get it to pass our Town Council; and so do away with these periodical discussions about the £4 3s. 4d. or whatever it is.

THE VISIT OF THE PROVINCIAL AND GOLD-FIELDS SECRETARIES.

The Provincial Secretary (Mr Turnbull), accompanied by Mr Bastings (Secretary for the Gold-fields), arrived in Cromwell on Saturday afternoon, about one o'clock. They were received and welcomed to the town by the Mayor (Mr Dawkins), and one or two other gentlemen. Not having been expected before the evening, of course no public recognition of their arrival was made. After an hour's stoppage for rest and refreshment, Messrs Turnbull and Bastings, accompanied by the District Engineer (Mr Fergus), and Messrs Dawkins and MacKellar, rode out to the Carrick, for the purpose of making a flying inspection of that district. The visit was more particularly for the benefit of Mr Turnbull, as he is a stranger to the workings in the interior of the Province, at least when compared with his colleague, the Secretary for the Gold-fields. The workings on Doctor's Flat and Pipeclay Gully were casually observed and pointed out as they rode past, and the various quartz claims between Quartzville and Carrickton. Leaving their horses at Carrickton, the visitors inspected the Elizabeth and Star-and-Oak machines. They then had a look over the Elizabeth, the Oak, and the Star claims. The workings of the latter they ventured to go through. Much pleasant surprise was expressed by Mr Turnbull at the magnitude of the operations carried on by the various companies. While travelling up the hill and round the claims, Mr Bastings expressed his regret that the vote of £400 for the Carrick Range road had been nearly all expended, as the roads were capable of still greater improvement, but at the same time promised, on behalf of the Government, that if the companies interested on the hill would subscribe a sum for any further works on the roads their expenditure would be subsidised to the extent of £2 for £1. He also said that they would be able to command the assistance of Mr Fergus, the District Engineer, in the proper expenditure of the sum, and further recommended that the offer should be taken advantage of before the advent of winter. Messrs Turnbull and Bastings also expressed themselves much pleased with the appearance of the Kawarau Bridge, and had no doubt it would do its share in contributing to the advancement of the district.

Shortly after their return to Cromwell, Messrs Turnbull and Bastings, in company with the Mayor and Councillors, proceeded to the Town-hall, where a large number of the citizens were in waiting, for the purpose of hearing the wants and requirements of the district discussed.

THE CONFERENCE.

His Worship the Mayor presided; and after having introduced the visitors to the meeting, briefly explained that the Council had adopted the usual Cromwell custom of publicly meeting the members of the Government, in order to give an opportunity of bringing the more pressing wants of the district under their notice. The first matter which he, on behalf of the Council, would mention, was the establishment of a District Court. Mr Wright supported the request.

Mr Bastings said the matter had been brought before his Honor the Superintendent

and himself in February last, and that the matter had since then been brought under the notice of the General Government.

Mr Turnbull said that, under the circumstances, seeing that there was a good courthouse, and that the Judge travelled through on his road to Queenstown, and since, doubtless, there was a good deal of the District Court business which came from the Cromwell district, the request was a very reasonable one, and one that he would undertake to again bring before the General Government, with whom the arrangement of the business entirely lay.

The District Land Board question was then referred to. Mr Bastings was at first inclined to reject the proposal to establish a local Board, but altered his mind when it was explained to him by Mr MacKellar that the request really meant to give the present District Board of Enquiry power to sit at Cromwell on all cases which came from or affected that district. Mr Colclough gave several instances where the necessity of travelling to Clyde formed a serious item of expense, and might have proved an obstacle to proper justice being done. Mr Turnbull expressed an opinion in favour of the request being granted. Mr Bastings said he would represent the matter favourably to the Waste Lands Board, and he had no doubt of the result.

The establishment of an hospital, either as a side or a main hospital, was then discussed. The Mayor explained that several persons within the last few years had died after being taken to the Dunstan Hospital, under circumstances which led many to think that their deaths had been considerably hastened by the journey between Cromwell and Clyde. If either a main or a side hospital had existed in Cromwell such a suspicion could not have arisen. Mr Turnbull said it was entirely a question for the Provincial Council to deal with.

The next matter brought forward was what is commonly known as the Block IX. question. The Mayor explained the action which had been taken by the Council, and asked whether the proposal to narrow the street to a uniform width of fifty seven feet would be legalised by the Government. Mr Colclough produced the town map, and further explained the business. Mr Bastings said it was entirely a matter for the Corporation to deal with: if they wished to remove the people who had taken possession of part of the street, they certainly had the power to do so, although if the residents in Melmore-terrace were all agreeable, they also had the power, he thought, to allow the encroaching buildings to remain. His opinion was that any one who owned land on the north side of Melmore-street could, with good reason, object to part of the street on the south side being squatted upon. Crs. Grant and Shantz supported the proposal to narrow the street to the width of fifty-seven feet, and Cr. Grant said a memorial was lying on the table in support of it. Cr. Jolly said it was numerously signed, and that few objections had been made to a compliance with the request contained in it; but the reason for this was that these who had objections thought the thing would never be carried out, or sanctioned by the Government, and so had given themselves very little trouble about it. Mr Bastings said the recreation reserve, called block IX., would be vested in the Corporation when the Crown grant for it was procured, but the Corporation and the townspeople would require to settle the street question themselves.

The "sand" allotments formed the next subject of discussion. It was understood that the District Engineer would examine and report upon the land spoken of, and that, if then the Corporation would distinctly say what they were prepared to do in the matter, the Government would deal with the question. Messrs Turnbull and Bastings would advise that the land should be given to the Corporation to the extent of (say) five or six acres if the Corporation would reclaim it.

The Mayor then called attention to the fact that although the whole town was now surveyed into sections, no additional sections had been set apart as an endowment for Municipal purposes, besides what had been done during the partial survey of 1863. Mr Turnbull thought it was only right and proper that a sufficient number of sections should be so set apart, and recommended the Council to name the sections which they would approve of. He would then see that they were temporarily reserved till the next meeting of the Provincial Council.

The matter of additional salary to the postmaster was then spoken of; but this, it was explained, was entirely a General Government affair.

The Mayor then asked if there was any probability of the Government assisting the Corporation in enclosing the recreation reserve of sixty acres. Mr Bastings said there was not the remotest chance of the Government doing so.

The commonage question was then brought up. Mr Bastings said the matter had been fully discussed about twelve months ago when his Honor and himself made a tour through the Province. It was a question in which they took the greatest interest, as could be seen from the fact that they had put £2000 upon the Estimates for the purpose of providing one.

Immediately upon their return to town on that occasion, they had opened up negotiations with the neighbouring runholders, but were not able to do anything except to get the offer of 7000 acres from Messrs Laughnan, —an offer which was made known to the people before, but which was apparently little valued. This was upon condition of erecting a fence. The local paper (the *Argus*) had devoted some time to the matter, and had quoted portions of the

law bearing on the subject, but the *Argus* had quoted the law in the same way as the Scripture was sometimes quoted. The Government could not declare the commonage as was said, or they would only be too glad to do it. They were fortified in this opinion by the advice of several lawyers in Dunedin, who all said it could not be done except by private treaty with the pastoral tenants. Fresh negotiations were opened up from time to time, and now the pastoral tenants took up the position that they would not part with any land at all for the purpose spoken of. At the same time, he was assured that no objection was, or would be, made to *bona fide* miners running a horse and two or three head of cattle. It was butchers and small squatters who were objected to, and who kept the commonage from being granted. This question of runs and runholders, however, was getting a serious one, and it was worthy of consideration whether some new terms could not be proposed when the present leases fell in. He did not think the evil would be entirely got over till then. At any rate, the Government would have to adopt the advice which was given them by the most experienced lawyers on this question. If, however, a larger expenditure than £2000 would secure a commonage, he did not think the Council would object to vote it next session. The Government would be prepared to recommend it.

Mr Colclough (who spoke as one of a deputation from the Miners' Association) said a question had even arisen lately in the Warden's Court whether it was lawful to grant certain areas under the mining regulations without the squatter's permission, or as against his wishes. One case, in particular, had cropped up lately, in which the Warden had refused to grant certain residence areas at Quartz Reef Point, in consequence of some doubts as to his power in the matter. The Warden kept postponing the cases from time to time, instead of settling the matter one way or the other. The Mayor here explained that it was on another ground that the Warden refused to grant the applications,—that it was in order to prevent an abuse of the regulations *in re* residence areas. Mr Bastings said if any question of the runholders' power, as against the miners, ever should crop up, if he were advised of it as Secretary for the Gold-fields, he would get proper advice upon it, and publish it for general information. In reply to Mr MacKellar, Mr Bastings said he would furnish the opinion, for public information, given by Mr Barton and other lawyers *in re* the power possessed by the Government to cancel pastoral leases when land was required for other purposes. Mr Turnbull said the opinion of the Attorney-General would be furnished if desired. The same gentleman further said that the land at the Hawea for selection on the deferred payment system, would be set apart before the end of the present month. He further said that great objections were made to parties taking up small areas on runs for settlement. That was picking the eyes out of the runs. If 500 to 1000 acres could be taken up by two or three parties in one block, he thought the Government would not object to declare it open for settlement on any run.

Mr Bastings, in reply to the Mayor, said the Engineer had already laid off the road to the Bennochburn, and would shortly lay one off to the Lower Flat. In the matter of an extension of the Quartz Reef Point road, Mr Bastings would give no positively favourable answer. The thing would be considered.

The question of the establishment of an assay office was then spoken of, but as the hour was getting late, it was not gone fully into. The general understanding was that the Government, if it could be done, would favourably consider the matter.

No one appearing to have any desire to put further questions to Messrs Turnbull and Bastings, Cr. Grant said it gave him great pleasure to move a vote of thanks to these gentlemen for the courteous manner in which they had met the people of this place, and given them every facility for making their wants known. A good many promises had been made, which he hoped would be carried out.

Mr Turnbull briefly replied. Among other things, he said he never promised to do things, unless he intended to carry them out; they might depend upon that. He also complimented the town on the energy displayed by the Town Council in bringing forward their various wants. He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding on the occasion.

The meeting then dispersed.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER.

Shortly afterwards, about thirty of the citizens met Messrs Turnbull and Bastings at dinner (which had been prepared by order of the Corporation) in Mr Starkey's hotel. Mr Dawkins and Mr Wright occupied the chair and vice-chair respectively. All the Councillors were present.

The affair passed off in the most pleasant and successful manner, and the "spread" was everything that could be desired or expected, especially on such short notice as was given to Mr Starkey.

After the tables had been disposed of, the toast of "The Queen," was proposed by the Chairman, and received in the usual loyal fashion.

The Chairman then proposed the toast of "His Honor the Superintendent," asking leave to couple it with the name of one of the guests of the evening, Mr Turnbull. The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Mr Turnbull, in replying to the toast, said he stood here almost in a sense representing his Honor, for if it had been possible, his Honor would himself have been here. Mr

was quite sure his Honor would be glad to hear how enthusiastically his health had been drunk in his absence, for Cromwell was one of the places which occupied a good deal of his attention. He often referred to the place as one which yet eventually would occupy a leading place amongst the towns of Otago. He (Mr Turnbull) had not before had the pleasure of seeing so much of the country as he had within the last few days; indeed, he had never before been more than fifty miles out of Dunedin since he came to the Province; and he was decidedly of the same opinion with regard to the future prospects of Cromwell.—(Hear, hear.) He was quite sure also that his Honor would make particular inquiries as to what his friend Mr Grant had to say on the commonage question—(laughter)—and that he would pay a little more attention to the subject than ever before. Mr Turnbull then went on to say that he had learned a good deal during his present trip. He had been able to realise for himself what a tremendous amount of country was in some cases in the hands of one man. Run this or that looked a small thing on the map, but when one came to see with his own eyes that it meant twenty miles on one side of a river, and twenty miles on the other, it was possible to understand that it might not be altogether a good thing for the country. At any rate, his views were a good deal altered, and he would be prepared to make more suitable provision for the settlement of population throughout the country than had hitherto been done.—(Hear, hear, and applause.) His own interests, he might say, lay entirely in seeing a large population in the country. Mr Turnbull then complimented the town on the "model" Corporation which it possessed. He judged it to be a model from the manner in which he had that day seen them conducting their business. Mr Turnbull sat down amidst great applause.

The Chairman next proposed the toast, "Our Guests," which was received with great enthusiasm.

Mr Bastings, in a short but effective speech, responded. He referred to the plan, he might say initiated by himself, of the members of the Executive annually making a tour through the country. It had the effect of bringing them into contact with a great number of people, and of allowing them to hear all kinds of opinions upon this or that policy freely ventilated. He might give as an example, his friend and colleague, Mr Turnbull; he was quite sure his ideas of the country would be much broader and sounder when he got back to Dunedin than when he left it. If all the members of the Provincial Council could be sent round the country, it would be a still greater improvement. The speaker then shortly referred to the policy which had been pursued by the present Government with regard to the up-country places, and challenged any one to give an example of any previous Executive which had dealt so liberally with them as the present one had. He always had been under the impression that Cromwell was the most important mining centre in the Northern Gold-fields, and its importance now was nothing to what it would yet reach,—an opinion which was gaining ground among people well able to form an opinion on the subject. Nothing he had yet seen gave him occasion to alter his views on the matter. He concluded by thanking the company for the honour which they had done his colleague and himself, in first of all inviting them to this feast, and afterwards treating them so kindly. Cromwell was certainly in his experience the most hospitable place in the Province.—(Hear, hear, and applause.)

Mr Turnbull then proposed "The Mayor and Corporation of Cromwell," which was well received, and to which Messrs Dawkins and Grant briefly responded.

Mr Bastings then proposed the toast of the "Representative of the District." He said he remembered the time when the Cromwell people used to send to him to get their requests preferred to the Government,—a duty which he hoped they would all admit he had always been willing to perform. Since the election of their present member, however, that duty had been taken off his shoulders. If anything was wanted for the district, and any begging had to be done, their member was up to the mark in that respect, they must admit. Indeed, he (Mr Bastings) was rather surprised at the success which had attended Mr MacKellar's efforts, seeing that on several occasions his voting was not altogether "straight."—(Much laughter.) Of course, he (Mr Bastings) meant in his opinion. He would again give, "The Member for the District."—Mr MacKellar briefly responded to the toast.

The Chairman then said, as the hour was getting late, (it was now nearly twelve,) he would propose only one more toast, viz., the "Host and Hostess." The acclamation with which the toast was received was sufficient evidence that Mr Starkey had done his duty in the catering line to the satisfaction of the whole company.

Mr Starkey responded in suitable terms, after which the company dispersed, all greatly pleased with the evening's proceedings.

Religious Scruples.—The late Dr Macadam used to tell of a tipsy Scotchman making his way home upon a bright Sunday morning when the good folk were wending their way to the kirk. A little dog pulled the ribbon from the hand of a lady who was leading it, and as it ran away from her, she appealed to the first passer-by, asking him to whistle for her poodle. "Woman!" he retorted, with that solemnity of visage which only a drunken Scotchman can assume, "Woman, this is no day for whistlin'."

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1873.

(Before W. Lawrence Simpson, Esq., R.M.)

R. KIDD v. THOMAS PARKINS, as administrator in the estate of John Parkins. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs; execution not to issue, however, till April 1874.

B. Moore applied for a re-hearing of the case. A. RITCHIE v. D. Moore, heard last week. He, however, failed to make an appearance before the Court, and the case was struck out.

Scott v. PHILIPPI.—This case was adjourned for further consideration.

Hermann Arndt was granted a wholesale license for his premises in Cromwell.

WARDEN'S COURT.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12.

(Before W. Lawrence Simpson, Esq., Warden.)

APPLICATIONS.

Cancellation of Certificate.—James Kennedy applied to have certificate No. 2245, 1/4/68, cancelled.

Special Claim.—J. Towan and two others applied for a claim of this description at Kawarau Gorge: ordered to be advertised and surveyed.

Protection.—John Chadwick, 90 days' for claim in Bailey's gully: granted.

Extended Claims.—A. Hunter, one acre in Bailey's gully: no appearance.—Ah We and five others, six acres at Nevis: granted.

Tail Races.—Ah We and five others, from claim at Nevis: granted.—Hugh M'Kone, from claim at Stonewall gully. There were objections, but objectors made no appearance.

Water Races.—Barker and another, extension of their present race: postponed till next Court-day.—Ah We and five others, six sluiceheads from Nevis River: granted.

The Tokomairiro School Inquiry.

(Evening Star.)

The substance of the report of Mr Maitland, R.M., concerning the groundless charge preferred by the Rev. Father Coleman against the schoolmaster of Tokomairiro of punishing Michael Curran for not attending Bible reading and prayers, was published by us some time ago. We have no wish to be severe upon any man, be he layman or priest, who commits a mistake in the fulfilment of what he conceives to be his duty; but we hold that when on most conclusive evidence the error is exposed, every reparation that can be made is due to those affected by it. In this instance the attack was not intended to be upon the schoolmasters at Tokomairiro. They were only the cat's-paws. Had they alone been concerned the matter would never have been heard of. That was not the object of the complaint. We shall, no doubt, lay ourselves open to condemnation by a section of the community for freely expressing our opinion on the matter, but justice requires that it should be explicitly stated; the charge was made against the school teachers, and their reputation was attacked, in order to establish a case against the educational system of the Province. It was sought to bring this instance forward as evidence that a large minority of the population were subjected to injustice; that their religion was despised, and their children's faith tampered with. We are not advocates for the day school being made a seminary of religion—in fact, we look upon it that, if it be perverted to that purpose, the problem to be solved is how little religious instruction is sufficient to satisfy the conscience of the dominant church: not how much can be given. We even go further and affirm that the half-hour devoted to a worse than useless reading of the Bible—a book dealing with subjects, the exposition of which requires years of preparatory study on the part of highly-educated men—is so much abstracted from the time for learning of those children whose religion will not admit of their attending that service. We are not, therefore, advocating the continuance of a system which we believe to be pernicious, because of its being the flimsiest possible substitute for what religious instruction ought to be. In the highest interests of humanity we consider it ought to be abolished, for it is just one slight remove from children not being taught anything whatever of religion: assuming they receive no other training than that. But that does not justify such a course of proceeding as was adopted by Father Coleman. The whole affair is a singular illustration of the passing innocence of the clerical mind.

Fortunately the lay mind is more suspicious than the clerical; and when the Inspector of Schools was informed about it, he very naturally did what Father Coleman did not do—he instituted inquiry, and the result is now before the world. So far as the school system of Otago is concerned, there is not a shadow of foundation for supposing, from this circumstance, that the schoolmasters have, directly or indirectly, interfered with the religious faith of a child, against the wish of its parents: and in honour the Rev. Father Coleman is bound to proclaim that fact to the world. The organ of the Roman Catholic Church, published in Dunedin, has not treated the matter fairly. In an article published a short time since, the writer put forward a series of hypotheses, tending to lead to doubts as to the result of the investigation; and as the charge has been thus inferentially repeated, it is due to the teachers falsely accused, the school system of the Province, and the clerical reputation of the Reverend Father, that he should do what one man would require of another—acknowledge he was deceived as to the facts, and hasty in his conclusion.

Abolishment of Debt.

When Mr T. B. Gillies stated that he was prepared to "abolish debt," he did so with a purpose; and there can be no doubt the day is coming that will see his idea, in that respect, carried into practice. The abolition of imprisonment for debt is the first step to that end. His Bill was rejected last session; but next year, in all probability, will see imprisonment for debt abolished by statute in New Zealand. At present, the law treats debt as a crime, punishable with imprisonment. But as it is impossible to carry on any kind of business without credit, so is it impossible to get rid of debt. Imprisonment for debt is a relic of a barbarous age, which did not scruple to treat the debtor as a person who had no civil rights unless he could satisfy his creditor; but it is opposed to the humane spirit of this age, and should therefore be abolished.

Mr Gillies, however, goes very much further, in his sweeping proposal to "abolish debt," than simply to repeal the punitive enactments against debtors. His scheme of law reform would involve the abolition of civil process as well, which would have the effect of reducing the credit system to the simple foundation of personal character and solvency. As we understand the proposition, it is as follows:—That A, in trusting B with his property, of whatever kind, does it at his own risk, and with the hope of making a profit out of B. Should B meet his engagements, A pockets the profit, and the public, C, hear nothing of the matter; but should B make default, A goes to C, and demands that C, who is no party to the transaction, should pay the cost of coercing B to keep faith with A. This, Mr Gillies holds to be unjust to the public, who have no interest, direct or indirect, in the bargaining of A and B, but who are heavily taxed to maintain Courts of law to adjust their disputes. And we, for our own part, fail to see any reply, good or bad, to the objection;—an objection, be it remembered, all the more remarkable, coming from a barrister who is second to none in the colony in his knowledge of commercial law. Why should the colony be taxed to maintain Courts of law to settle the disputes of individuals? Why should colonists be dragged from their private pursuits to sit on juries, and give days and weeks of valuable time to the adjustment of private accounts, with which neither they nor the public are concerned? There is really no reason why such things should be, beyond the wholly insufficient one that the Government assumes functions, in respect of property, which do not properly belong to it. If, however, civil process were abolished, transactions between individuals would be conducted with much more care and prudence than they now are. There would be an end of reckless trading. Indiscriminate credit would not be the rule of business as now, relying upon the chapter of accidents, and the help of the Courts, to bring matters square in the end. On the contrary, good business habits, high moral character, and admitted integrity would in every case be recognised;—there would not be an end of the credit system, but there would be a commencement of a discriminating system of credit, and the result would be—fewer trade losses, a higher commercial tone, and more solid progress than is possible under a system which handicaps integrity, taxes the public to make things pleasant for rogues.—*Guardian.*

An Amazonian.

A very reasonable plea for wearing men's attire was given by a woman named Johanna Johnson, who was charged with the "offence" recently at the Heathcote Police Court, Victoria. From the evidence adduced it appeared that Miss Johnson had remained as a female in the hired service of Mr Craven, storekeeper, Heathcote, for about five months, during which time her conduct was all that could be desired, she having proved herself both steady and hard-working. She, however, being aware that the rate of wages for labouring men is higher than that for female servants, and considering herself competent to perform the work of the sterner sex, discarded her female attire and donned the pants, &c., of the male. Then slightly altering her name from Johanna to Joseph Johnson, hired herself out as a labouring man to Mr J. Duff, farmer, Maia-Mia, where she worked for five weeks, proving herself both a willing and a smart hand. When arrested she was in the act of putting up chock and log fencing. There being no proof that the male attire was assumed for anything but a good motive, Johanna was discharged, female costume having first been procured for her. She pleaded hard to be permitted to wear the male attire, stating that she had been always accustomed to do so when a young girl, and in her own country, Germany, she had fought as a man in the army, and male attire suited her better than female, and that she wished to earn enough money as soon as possible to take her back to her own country. Miss Johnson, who is an exceptionally powerful and muscular woman, and appeared much more at home and better suited in male costume, was informed that the laws of the country would not permit her to wear any other than the attire of her own sex, and in such she was sent from the Court to earn her livelihood.

The following is an approximately correct classification of the adherents of the various Churches among English-speaking people:—Protestant Episcopalians, 12,000,000; Presbyterians, 11,500,000; Baptists, 10,500,000; Congregationalists, 7,500,000; Methodists, 5,000,000; Roman Catholics, 10,000,000.

Improved Rock Drill.

The perfection of mechanical appliances to substitute hand-labour in the tedious and costly process of rock-boring has of late years occupied the attention of many able engineers, and a large variety of machines, more or less meritorious and successful, have been constructed and employed. The best known of this class—those designed and employed by Sommeillier in the construction of the Mont Cenis tunnel—were described and illustrated by us on a recent occasion. But although the Sommeillier drill reflects great credit on its designer, and although it performed invaluable work, it was complicated in its details, costly in its repairs, and, compared to more recent apparatus for performing the same work, was imperfect in its action. Associated with the name of its designer, and the great undertaking carried through by its assistance, the Sommeillier rock-boring machine will be remembered with interest, rather than reproduced in practice, and it has already given place to others simpler in design, more rapid in action, and less expensive to maintain.

One of these, which has done good service in America upon the works of the Hoosac Tunnel, and which has since been brought into this country, is the Burleigh drill; but more lately a machine has been introduced which, by the simplicity of its details, and its rapidity in regular working, appears to surpass all that has yet been done in this direction. This is the M'Kean rock drill, which we illustrate this week, and shall proceed to describe. It is right to premise that the form of drill which is now being manufactured has been developed after a long experience, extending over several years, and has gradually been perfected from a large number of experiments. So long ago as 1866, Mr M'Kean turned his attention to the introduction of the Haupt boring machine to this country. This drill has been used to a considerable extent in America, especially upon the Hoosac Tunnel; but it fell far short of the necessary requirements, and, abandoning this arrangement, the inventor has succeeded in constructing a machine which, we think, will supersede any of the same class which has yet been introduced.

The great advantages possessed by the M'Kean drill are, that it consists of but few parts, all of which are well designed for compactness and strength; that it can be adjusted to any required position, so that holes can be drilled at any angle, the machine working with equal facility in every direction; that its moving parts are only two, the piston and the piston rods with the cutter bar, and the valve; that it is adapted to deliver from 500 to 1000 blows per minute, while the stroke of the piston and fall of the cutter bar is only 2½ in. or 3 in.; that it is manipulated with the greatest ease, and that it is inexpensive. Moreover, as there is no shock whatever upon any part of the machine except the cutter bar and piston, which is cushioned by the steam or air in the cylinder, the wear is reduced to a minimum.

A minute description of the rock drill is then given, accompanied by drawings, and the description continues:—

In the foregoing description of the M'Kean drill we have alluded to it as being driven by steam; this would, of course, be the case in all open work, and even in short headings, but compressed air would be required for tunnel work. In conclusion, we may add a few words upon the regular performance of the machines, one of which may be seen daily in operation at 42, Borough-road. This machine is of the size ordinarily used for quarry work or open cutting, weighing about 150 lbs., with a single drill mounted on a frame. A smaller, and for many purposes a still more convenient form, is being manufactured, which can be handled by one man. With a steam pressure of 75 lbs. to the inch, it will drill, as a maximum, a 2½ in. hole to a depth of 12 in. per minute in Aberdeen granite; but the average duty may be estimated at from 6 in. to 9 in. per minute, and the number of strokes from 500 to 1000. It is true some other machines have shown a high duty as this, but none have hitherto been brought out which so completely fulfil all the varied requirements of a rock drill.—*The Engineering.*

Chinese Warfare.

The *Times* has a curiously powerful article on the fate of the Panthay kingdom, in Western China. The Sultan's capital, Talifoo, was a city strongly fortified, and surrounded at a distance of thirty miles by another line of forts, the vacant space within being employed to grow provisions. The Chinese, with their reorganised army of 200,000 men, who are partly armed, we believe, with rifles, bought an entrance into the inner ring, and reduced the central city by famine. The Sultan, Soleiman, after poisoning his wives, and, it is said, his children—but this must mean female children only—offered to surrender himself, and was carried in his state palanquin a corpse to the Chinese General's tent. The latter, however, quite unmoved, ordered the slaughter of the whole population, men, women, and children, who, to the number of 50,000, were at once put to death. Colossal crimes of this kind usually bring their own retribution, and we should not wonder if this did, their complete success tempting the ruling Chinese to a similar massacre of all the barbarian strangers in their ports. If it does, Europe will have a great task to perform—the final termination of this dynasty, followed either by the dismemberment of China, or the elevation of an Emperor with a totally different spirit.

MISCELLANEA.

A professor's wife who occupied herself sometimes with assisting her husband in making casts of interesting objects of geology and natural history (says a contemporary), also for her own pleasure sometimes made flowers and fruits of wax and other materials; but notwithstanding that she had become quite a successful expert in this line, she found that almost always her efforts were criticised by her friends. Once at a tea party she passed a large apple round, and stated her confidence that this time she had been quite successful in her imitation of nature's product; but her friends were, as usual, not of her opinion. One criticised the shape, saying it would be more natural if it were not so globular; another criticised the colour, and said that it was better than other imitations; but that she had not quite hit that natural indescribable peculiarity which distinguished the natural from the imitation; almost every one had some fault to find. After the apple had been passed round and had come into her hand again, she ate it, without saying anything. Her friends had been criticising a real apple, but never afterwards criticised her imitation of fruit.

The Preaching and Practice of Philosophy.—An aged couple on Wooster-street are very fond of checkers, and play frequently. When he beats at the game she loses her temper, and declares she will not play again. It vexes him to have her act so, but he controls her irritation and talks to her about it. He tells her how wrong it is for people at their age in life to be disturbed by such trifles, and shows her so clearly the folly of such a course, that she becomes ashamed of her weakness and returns to the game, and plays it so well that she beats him. Then he throws the checkers in one direction and kicks the board in another, and says he will never play with anybody who cheats so artfully, and stalks off to bed leaving her to pick up the things.—*Danbury News.*

A very touching case of mental aberration in a charming young lady is described by a careful observer. Not long ago her mother found her in her room energetically darning stockings, and soon after she appeared in the kitchen and assisted that wondering dame in making and baking bread and pastry. Alarmed by these fearful signs of intellectual disorder, her fond parents immediately sent for a skilful physician, who watched her through a keyhole while she sewed buttons on her father's garments and mended those of her little brother. Much affected, the venerable man remarked that never during a practice of twenty-five years had he known any young person to manifest such symptoms as these. The most heartrending phase of all, however, was shown the other day, when her kind father, with a faint hope of arousing her from her sad state, gave her two hundred dollars and told her to buy a new dress. Alas! 'twas useless. She instantly observed that she didn't need a new dress, and if he would let her keep twenty-five dollars to pay a poor widow's rent she'd much rather he would take the rest of the money for himself. For a few moments that grief-stricken old gentleman gazed upon his hapless child, then hiding his face, muttered between his sobs, "Her mind is gone!"—*New York Tribune.*

Newspaper Writers.—"Cameo" thus writes in the *Auckland Weekly News* respecting newspaper writers:—"If any one of my readers wishes to experience the very depths of misery, let him become a newspaper writer, and undertake to supply two or three columns 'amusing' matter of local interest every week, and if he does not swear that he'll never again forsake the pick and shovel to rely upon such a precarious means of obtaining a livelihood as that provided by the pen of an 'occasional' article writer, then my experience goes for naught. Just picture to yourself the extreme felicity of being taken unawares in the street, and requested at once to make a joke. Chances are that you would perpetrate one by instantly knocking down the propounder of the insult. May be you bad just had a bill dishonoured, or your family was down with measles, or your digestion bad, or your best cow drowned itself in the mill-pond, or perhaps your neighbour's fowls had been amusing themselves in your garden, and with these grievances, or any of them, fresh on your mind, you are called upon to look pleasant, and to say something funny. Why, an insult would be excusable under such circumstances. But what is that to the troubles of the scribe, who is expected to be humorous over the dry doings of the super-dry inhabitants of this city, which are infinitely more calculated to give one the dizzards than to excite the risible faculties? I declare I have searched the papers this week with the most painful care, and have not lit upon a subject suggestive of a gleam of wit or humour, or the slightest approach to a joke in the records of our great men's doings."

A Merry Monarch.—The *San Francisco News-Letter* rejoices in the death of Mirambo, a mighty prince of Central Africa. "We can bear," it says, "with despots who observe the decencies of life; but a tyrant who dresses himself in a single banana leaf, and on Sundays wears only one ring through his nose, cannot be countenanced consciously. A monarch who takes the trousers sent from missionary-inspired ladies of Aberdeen, splits them in half, fills them with sand, and makes a war club of each leg, cannot be forgiven on the ground of mere eccentricity. Mirambo had a habit of shoving his crown suddenly under his son when the prince went to sit down, so that the spikes would make him sneeze. The father enjoyed this joke as much as if he had been brought up and educated on a comic journal."

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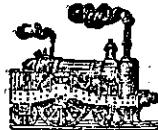
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Nothing has the power of reducing inflammation and subduing pain in these complaints in the same degree as Holloway's cooling Ointment and purifying Pills. When used simultaneously, they drive all inflammation and depravities from the system, subdue and remove all enlargement of the joints, and leave the sinews and muscles lax and uncontracted. A cure may always be effected even under the worst circumstances, if the use of these medicines be persevered in.

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Chigoe-foot	Ulcers
Chilblains	Wounds and Yaws
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1873.